



CALAVERAS BIG TREES STATE PARK

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL GROUP TOURS

2006—2007

Thank you for your interest in our programs. We strive to provide the best programs possible for your students. In order to ensure this, and to receive a school program discount, the following guidelines must be followed.

Visiting Schools must make reservations for guided tours AND self-guided tours. Please read the following instructions to make reservations.

Information on Guided Tours:

- Guided tours are available at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, during the months of April and May and in September and October.
- Guided tour fees are \$60.00 for each group of up to 40 students and adults (\$20 non-refundable reservation fee, \$40 payable for the tour itself, *the total amount must be sent at the same time to reserve your requested guided tour date*).
- Reservations for guided tours must be made and payment received **at least thirty days in advance** of your planned date. Due to volunteer scheduling, there are no exceptions.
- One guided tour is equal to one busload of forty people, or forty people carpooling. If you carpool, please try to limit the number of cars. Only one group (40 people maximum) may be accommodated during each time slot.
- Groups over 40 should consider reserving two guided tours. With advance notice, it may be possible to accommodate two guided tours from the same school in a time slot.
- For the safety of the children, one adult per 10 children must be present. Close supervision is imperative for a safe and rewarding experience.
- Your group also may visit the Visitor Center Museum/Store and view a slide show presentation (about 20 minutes). Space is limited in the Visitor Center and only groups broken into 20 people at a time will be taken through.
- If your group is more than 30 minutes late, your tour may be cancelled. *If you know in advance that you may be delayed, please call the park (209-795-7980) so that we can try to accommodate you upon your arrival.*
- If you need to cancel your reservation, please contact us no later than one week (seven days) before your scheduled arrival to receive a refund.
- Children in Second grade and older will be taken on the North Grove Trail, younger children will be taken on the Three Senses Trail.
- **Fall Tour reservations will only be accepted June 1st to Sept 30th.**
- **Spring Tour reservations will only be accepted Nov 1st to April 30th.**

Information on Self Guided Tours:

- Self-guided tour reservations must be confirmed at least ten days in advance to receive the school group discount and may be made year around.
- One tour is equal to one busload of forty people, or forty people carpooling. If you carpool, please try to limit the number of cars. Two self-guided tours may be reserved for one time slot if room in the park allows.
- A non-refundable reservation fee of \$20.00 is required 10 days prior to arrival. This reservation allows us to ensure that the park will not be overcrowded with other tours. If you choose not to pay the reservation fee, you will be charged \$6.00 per passenger vehicle, \$50.00 for a 10-24 passenger bus, or \$100 for a 25 or more passenger bus.

To reserve a Guided or Self Guided tour:

1. Complete and send the attached request form, with check made out to "CBTA." Mail (*do not fax*) the form and check (*for recordkeeping cash is not accepted*) to:

**Calaveras Big Trees State Park
Attn: School Tours
PO Box 120
Arnold, CA 95223**

2. You will receive a confirmation of your date and time, or, if there is a problem with the date or time, we will contact you. Scheduling is first come-first served.

Weather and road conditions may prevent park personnel from performing your program. If possible, we will inform you if the program will not be given due to adverse weather and/or road conditions. *This notification is not always possible. If you are unsure of conditions, call us before you leave your school.* In the event of weather-induced cancellations, we will attempt to reschedule your tour. If this is not possible, then we will refund your fee

A Teacher's Guide to the North Grove is available. Information on the grove, ecology and the park in general is included. There are also ideas for activities to do with your students prior to arrival. To receive a guide, add three dollars to your reservation fee.

Be prepared to spend at least two hours in the park. If you wish to view the slide show and visit the museum/gift shop, then you may need to plan for more time. These time commitments do not include time spent eating lunch or using the restrooms upon arrival.

We strongly recommend that you arrive in the park one half-hour prior to your tour time. This will allow the children time to use the restroom and have a snack before beginning the walk. Children that have a snack prior to (not during) the hike will fare much better.

For more information about Calaveras Big Trees State Park and other California State Parks, visit our website at www.parks.ca.gov